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Absentminded Jones

By CYRUS DERICKSON

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The sign on the village store read, "Jones & Co., Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Etc.," but there was no "Co." It was put on by Jones because he thought it would look well and somehow increase its importance. Sathiel Jones was Jones & Co., and the only Jones, and he was a mystery to all who knew him. He was a successful merchant, and at the same time he was so absentminded that he was daily laughed at by scores of people. His store was by all odds the largest establishment of its kind for miles around, and for many years he had had four male clerks in his employ. Then one day, to keep up with the times, he gave a place to a young woman, and Miss Minnie Trent made her debut behind the counter at which most of the women customers made their purchases.

In taking in Miss Minnie, Jones had aided a worthy widow and a smart and good looking daughter to eke out their income, and he deserved all credit for it. True, he called her Minnie or Miss Trent half the time, and there were occasions when he looked at her and wondered where he could possibly have seen her before, but he was a good employer and she a smart salesgirl, and things went along without any trouble.

In taking in the three male clerks in the store was named James Thomas, and it was generally understood in the village that he was "sweet" on Minnie. Some said that it was through his influence that she secured the place, but that was not true. One of the other clerks was a bachelor of forty-five. Nobody could ever understand how he turned to mercantile life. He seemed to be as slow witted as he was slow footed, and his personal appearance was anything but prepossessing. It was doubtful if any other merchant except Jones would have employed him at any wages, but Jones wanted honest people about him, and he had the highest confidence in Albert Ross.

Things had been running smoothly at the store for months and months, when there came such an interruption as had never been known before. A woman lost a purse containing \$50. There were not half a dozen people in the store at the time, and she was sure she had it in her hand when she sat down at the counter presided over by Miss Trent. Search was made at once and continued for half an hour. Jones had left the store five minutes before the alarm was raised to get an early dinner and attend a funeral, and he did not learn of the loss until several hours after. Then he proceeded to a judicial examination. He called in the constable and the justice of the peace, and the employees were examined and cross examined. The loser was firm in saying that no other person except Miss Minnie was at the counter when she missed her purse, and although she made no charge, there could be but one inference. She herself was permitted to search the protesting and indignant girl, and a thorough search was made above and under the counters and all over the store, but nothing was brought to light. Then Jones did the right thing. He handed the woman \$50, with his compliments and regrets, and said nothing further to the clerk. Nothing further would have been said by any one had not the woman talked.

Anything is a sensation in a village. The fact that \$50 had been lost in Jones & Co.'s was a big sensation, bigger than a circus and a Fourth of July in one. People at once divided off. One half of them were sure that the daughter of the widow had yielded to the sudden temptation and concealed the purse for her future benefit. The other half charitably argued that some one else had picked it up or even that there had been no loss at all. Jones & Co. tried to pass the affair over and hush it up, but the people wouldn't have it that way. It was a good thing to hang on to until some woman eloped or some man stole sheep, and it became a leading and a burning question. It resulted in quarrels between neighbors, and those quarrels finally resulted in Miss Trent being called a thief and having to take legal cognizance of it by bringing a suit for slander. The defendant in that suit swore out a warrant for the girl on a charge of having appropriated the \$50, and there was as pretty a kettle of fish as a town ever saw.

Jones & Co. and the three clerks were placed in an unfortunate position. While all of them fully believed in the girl's innocence, their testimony on a suit would hardly favor her. If the purse was lost at her counter, as the loser was ready to swear, then it must be admitted that only two of them were there at the time.

Things certainly looked very bad for Miss Trent, and the mental worry had put her under the doctor's care, when a strange thing happened. Albert Ross, the old bachelor clerk, went before the justice of the peace and charged himself with the offense and made a full confession. In this confession he admitted to passing the counter while clerk and customer were busy looking at goods and to have seen the purse and slipped it into his pocket. He had destroyed the purse, but he was ready to restore the money. He asked to be arrested, tried and punished, and in the course of a week he was arraigned and bound over to a higher court for trial.

If there had been excitement before

there was a sensation now. While Miss Trent's character was cleared, people hesitated to believe that Albert Ross was a thief. However, when a man says he is a thief, swears that he is a thief and demands that he be sent to prison as a thief, what are you going to do about it? The key to unlock the mystery was kicking around underfoot all the time, but nobody could see it.

The trial in the higher court came along in about a month, and Ross pleaded guilty and was sent to state prison for a year. He took the sentence meekly and in a couple of days had disappeared from sight of the people who had known him for fifteen long years and believed in his honesty every day. Miss Trent returned to the store, and things went on in the old way, except with Jones & Co. Jones did not for one instant believe the girl guilty. Neither did he believe that Ross took the purse. He went about scratching his head and talking to himself and trying to remember something, and it was one day after one of his "fits" had lasted him for half an hour that he suddenly jumped up and down and used a swear word. Next instant he clapped on his hat and started on a run for home, he being a widower, with a housekeeper. In fifteen minutes he was back at the store with the purse in his hand.

It was as easy as breaking eggs. Jones had passed the counter while the two women were looking at some garment. He had seen the purse and picked it up to hand it along to its owner. A clerk had called him at the moment, and he had started off. The purse had gone into his coat tail pocket, walked home to dinner with him, and when he changed his coat to go to the funeral it was left in the old one. Upon his return he had put on another, and so for weeks the missing money had been hanging in his wardrobe.

"Why did you do it?" asked Miss Trent of the homely and ill shaped old bachelor as he returned from prison with his character fully cleared. "I—I thought I was guilty," he lamely replied. "No! You thought I was guilty?" "Not that, Miss Trent. I—I knew that James loved you and that you loved him and that—that—" "Then you thought him guilty and sacrificed yourself for the both of us?" "Well, you see, you see, I'm getting old and homely—I never expect to marry—and—er—well, it's all over with."

And so it was, except that the girl threw her arms around his neck and kissed him, and her tears dampened his wrinkled cheeks—the first tears and the first kiss since he was a baby in his mother's arms.

"Talking about philosophy," said a noted author, who would never in the world forgive me if I mentioned his name, "reminds me of a man I used to know in Louisville. He raised hogs for a living, not because the hog, per se, is a thing of beauty, but because he had an idea that by nurturing hogs in a certain way he could make them pay better than any other crop. 'The idea was still in his mind when the hogs were ripe. He drove them to Louisville, but the price offered him did not seem adequate. He felt sure that over in Indiana—Indiana is a very cultured state—hogs of an exceptional kind would be more keenly appreciated. He drove the hogs to Indianapolis. The price there was also inadequate, so he footed it to Chicago with his crop. Some time late in the fall he returned to Louisville, still driving his hogs before him, and there he sold them for considerably less than the price he had refused in the beginning. Somebody expressed sympathy for him. 'Well,' he replied, 'I lost the whole summer, and I'm out a good deal on the cost of them critters, but I've had the society of my hogs.'—Washington Post.

Coleridge's Visions. Coleridge once read to his friend Colt, the publisher, from his pocket-book a list of eighteen different works, not one of which he ever wrote. For many years he meditated a heroic poem on the siege of Jerusalem by Titus, and among other projected works were a "Treatise on the Corn Laws," a "Book of German Belles Lettres," a "Book of Morals," in answer to Godwin, an "Essay on the Writings of Johnson and Gibbon," a poetical pantomime and a "kind of comedy." "I should not think of devoting less than twenty years to an epic poem," he writes—"ten years to collect my materials and warm my mind with universal science." Five were to be spent in its composition and five with its correction. His tastes and inclinations were undoubtedly catholic, but persistent effort in any one direction was ill suited to the genius of Coleridge, and he was content with his books and his opium and consequent glorious dreaming.—Chambers' Journal.

The Girl and the Book. See the young girl. What is the young girl doing? She is reading a book. Is it a good book? Well, that depends. The author of the book thinks it is a good one, and so does the publisher. So does the young girl. Are there any other books better than this? Yes, we think there are. But the young girl does not know about them, because they are old. Then this book is not old? Oh, no, it is new. That is why the young girl is reading it. See her turn the leaves. See her skip. See her eager expression. Should we all get the skipping habit and turn the leaves with an eager expression? Certainly we should if we wish to keep up with all the latest books. And it is a good thing to do this, is it not? Well, it is not the chief end of man, but it is of a lot of young girls.—Life.

A. H. KUHLMAN

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Will do work in any part of Amador County. If you want to build, send a note to Jackson Postoffice and I will call on you. Estimates furnished without cost on any kind of building. Will make plans and specifications for you.

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The sweetest and finest flavored breakfast bacon obtainable. Thin, crisp slices—a most appetizing relish. Your grocer sells "Our Taste" Vegetables, Fruits, Hams, Bacon, Oysters

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MARRIAGE MUSINGS.

The honeymoon sometimes reaches its last quarter.

Marriage is woman's sphere and man's hemisphere.

To the altar may be only fifty feet. From it may be fifty years.

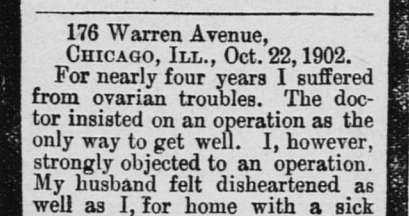
Some husbands are known by the keys they are allowed to keep.

Love lights life's pathway, but for practical purposes the gas stove has advantages.

It does not add to the joys of the wedding trip to recall that there are no Pullmans on the suburban schedules.

The word "obey" sounds well in the ceremony. There is always plenty of time afterward for laughing at the joke.

Relatives sit in the front pews at the ceremony, on the front porch in summer and in judgment on the bride and groom throughout the year.—Philadelphia Post.



MRS. CECILIA STOWE, Orator, Entre Nous Club.

176 Warren Avenue, CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 22, 1902.

For nearly four years I suffered from ovarian troubles. The doctor insisted on an operation as the only way to get well. I, however, strongly objected to an operation. My husband felt disheartened as well as I, for home with a sick woman is a disconsolate place at best. A friendly druggist advised him to get a bottle of Wine of Cardui for me to try, and he did so. I began to improve in a few days and my recovery was very rapid. Within eighteen weeks I was another being.

WINE OF CARDUI

Mrs. Stowe's letter shows every woman how a home is saddened by female weakness and how completely Wine of Cardui cures that sickness and brings health and happiness again. Do not go on suffering. Go to your druggist today and secure a \$1.00 bottle of Wine of Cardui.

Amador Hotel

—S. J. PEARCE, Proprietor—
AMADOR CITY - - - CALIFORNIA.

The most excellently appointed hostelry in Amador County.

—HOT AND COLD BATHS—
A bar in connection supplied with the choicest Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

112 —RATES REASONABLE.—

DAILY STAGE LINE

BETWEEN JACKSON and EL DORADO

J. Steiner, Proprietor.

Leaves Jackson every morning at 7:30 a. m.; arrives at Plymouth 10:30 a. m. Leaves Plymouth at 1 p. m.; arrives at El Dorado 5 p. m.

Leaves El Dorado 7:15 a. m.; arrives at Plymouth 11 a. m. Leaves Plymouth at 2 p. m.; arrives in Jackson at 5 p. m.

OFFICES—Jackson, National Hotel; Sutter Creek, American Exchange; Amador City, Amador Hotel; Drytown, Exchange; Plymouth, Forest House.

Prompt delivery of packages.

This line connects with passenger trains to and from Placerville.

THROUGH FARE - - - \$2.50

Fifty pounds of baggage free.

LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE.

A Change Would Cause Injurious Depression in Business—United States the Most Prosperous Nation.

Comparison of the statistics of the United States with those of other countries shows that this country enjoys a much greater degree of prosperity than any other. During the ten years from 1892 to 1902 the population of Great Britain increased ten per cent., that of Germany 15 per cent., and that of the United States 21 per cent. During the same period the total deposits in all banks in Great Britain increased 43 per cent., in the United States 101 per cent. Coal production in Great Britain increased 21 per cent., in Germany 65 per cent., in France 22 per cent., in the United States 75 per cent. The production of pig iron increased 18 per cent. in Great Britain, 59 per cent. in Germany, 17 per cent. in France, 94 per cent. in the United States. The production of steel increased 65 per cent. in Great Britain, 132 per cent. in Germany, 133 per cent. in France and 173 per cent. in the United States. The exports of manufactures increased 18 per cent. in Great Britain, 30 per cent. in Germany, 10 per cent. in France, and 155 per cent. in the United States. Great Britain, with her enormous outflow to her colonies, exported in 1902 manufactures to the amount of \$1,126,000,000, while the United States exported \$4,403,000,000; but whereas Great Britain in this item gained only 18 per cent. during the decade from 1892 to 1902, over the last preceding decade, the United States gained 155 per cent. Why should any person vote to exchange such prosperity as that for a period of political incompetence, disturbing legislation and business depression.

FIGURES TELL THE STORY.

Statistics are generally dry, but those which deal with the material progress of the United States since the birth of the Republican party possess interest for every American citizen. Since 1861, when Abraham Lincoln was first inaugurated, our population has increased from 31,000,000 to 79,000,000; our national wealth from about \$16,000,000,000 to about \$150,000,000,000. The deposits in our savings banks have increased from \$146,729,882 to \$2,935,240,845, and the number of depositors from about 787,000 to over 7,000,000. There has been an increase in our imports 143 per cent. and in our exports of 318 per cent. In 1860 there were 1,300,000 wage earners in the United States; in 1900 there were 5,336,000.

These figures tell convincingly the story of our development as a nation. With the exception of a few disastrous years of Democratic rule, that development has all taken place under Republican administrations, and the stimulating influence of Republican policies.

When President McKinley was first inaugurated in 1896 business and commercial depression prevailed throughout the country. Within two years after the passage of the Dingley Tariff law there were established 345 new industrial plants and 108 existing plants were enlarged; the new capital invested amounted to \$40,449,050, and the number of additional employees to 37,285. Such figures as these tell their own story.

It is better for this country to feed, house and clothe our own labor in this country than to support foreign labor in other countries with our money. Under protection we take care of our own; under free trade we give the benefit to foreign nations.

If a tariff law has on the whole worked well, and if business has prospered under it and is prospering, would it not be better to endure some inequalities for a time than by making changes to risk causing disturbance and perhaps paralysis in the industries of the country?

The Democrats want the offices because they can not do any harm. They will be denied them because they are not in position to do any good.

Summed up, the democratic contention this year takes the form of a vote of thanks that they were defeated in 1896 and 1900.

Hotel For Sale.

The Adams House, Plymouth, Amador county. A large and commodious building with 20 bedrooms, parlor, waiting room, kitchen, dining room, sample room, and the nicest barroom in Amador county. Hotel and bar now doing a good business. Large lot. Property must be seen to be appreciated. Owners desire to retire from business the only reason for wanting to sell. For particulars call on or address Mrs. Ella Adams, Plymouth, Cal. 7-11

J. H. LANGHORST

Main Street, Jackson

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AMERICAN WATCHES, CLOCKS JEWELRY

AND SILVERWARE

All goods warranted as represented. Repairing of watches, clocks and jewelry a specialty.

We represent THE BELASCOE HARRIS CO. San Francisco. Tailors to the trade.

THE RED FRONT JACKSON'S CHEAPEST DRY GOODS STORE

Our READY MADE CLOTHES have no equal Jackson or elsewhere

GREAT CUT RATE OUR SALE COMMENCES ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 10th, 1904.

It will be as usually of a 15 days duration. But every day will be a lively day of business in this always busy store. We are opening the Fall and Winter Season of 1904 with a stock of goods second to none in this county. We are having this sale in order to get a big start on business and have it run in full blast up to the end of the year. The following are but a few items.

20 yds Tennis Flannel for \$1.00 Light or dark; pretty patterns; all fast colors.	Ladies' Shirt Waists 95c Regular price \$1.50; made of Matsae Clair; in all colors.	Ladies' Flannelette Night Gowns, 50c Beautifully trimmed with colored yoking; worth 75c.
20 yds. Calico for \$1.00 Navy blue, red or light; fast colors.	Sheet Blankets 75c 10-4 Size —White, Gray or Brown—	Ladies' Flannelette Wrappers 75c —Regular price \$1.00—
Boy's Overalls with Bib Black, small or large—20c	6 Spools of Coat's Cotton Thread 25c	Ladies' Dress Shoes \$1.10 Vici kid; extended soles; patent leather tips.

Backed by Authority. A certain railroad, according to the Eastern Transcript, has set its face against the use of the pass evil and has resorted to Scripture to make plain its position. It has posted in the two of three passenger cars that comprise its equipment the following notice:

This means you! Thou shalt not pass.—Numbers xx, 18. None shall ever pass.—Isaiah xxxiv, 10. Suffer no man to pass.—Judges iio, 22. The wicked shall no more pass.—Nahum i, 15. This generation shall not pass.—Mark xii, 30. Though they roar, yet they cannot pass.—Jeremiah v, 22. So he paid the fare and went.—Jonah i, 3

Grilled Lion Steaks. An explorer who has often by compulsion eaten the flesh of animals not generally used as human food says that grilled lion steaks are delicious and much superior to those of the tiger; that the flesh of the rhinoceros, properly prepared, has all the good qualities of pork; that the trunk and feet of young elephants resemble veal, and that stewed boar constrictor is a splendid substitute for rabbit.

Coal Tar Colors. If a pound of coal is subjected to a dry distillation and the products and residual treated chemically by the processes for obtaining the well known coal tar color, it will yield enough material to color 500 yards of flannel, vermillion for 2,500 yards, aurin for 120 yards and alizarin sufficient for 155 yards of red cloth.

Happy Smiles. "How tall is that fellow?" nodding in the direction of a manager of a hotel, who was the same size all the way up and had to stoop to pass through doorways. "Why, he's as long as a wet week."—New York Press.

THE RUBBA MUMMA. One of the queer superstitions of the West Indies. One of the queerest of the many queer superstitions in the West Indies is that of the "Rubba Mumma," or river mother, of Jamaica. While the colored people laugh to scorn the idea of ocean mermaids, many of them firmly believe that water nymphs inhabit every fountain head of the mountain streams, which are so numerous in their island.

In the old slavery days the sources of such streams were worshiped and sacrifices offered to the "Rubba Mumma." The slaves on the plantations used to persuade their overseers or masters to sacrifice an ox at the fountain head of the stream which turned the wheel of the sugar mill, so that drought might be averted. Unless the "Rubba Mumma" was propitiated, the slaves contended, she would not send down enough water to turn the mill. On most of the sugar estates a bullock was annually killed for this purpose.

The "Rubba Mumma" is still believed in, and in time of drought the peasants still sacrifice a goat or a chicken to her. She is said to be marvelously beautiful, with a lily white skin, long black hair and soft blue eyes. She comes out of the water at noon every day, sits down on a rock in the stream and comb her raven tresses. If any Peeping Tom sees her and their eyes meet he is blasted upon the spot, but if she does not happen to see him it is all right.

Food is sometimes taken to the river head and left there for the "Rubba Mumma." The natives will not eat the fish of the rivers which she inhabits, for they are supposed to be her children. It is said that wherever the river nymph resides, provided the fountain is deep and blue, there is a table of pure gold and blue, and there is an enchanted table, and at "sun hot" (noon) it rises for a moment above the surface of the water and quickly sinks again.

Don't Be Envious. The men or women who envy those who happen to be able to dress well and to enjoy the pleasures of life a little more than those who are compelled to work continually will be miserable all their days, for, no matter how high they may get, they will find others still higher. The envious person is never satisfied and never can be. Take the successful men of the city, and you will find that the majority of them began just where you did. Then why are you not in equally good circumstances? If you ran a race with a man and lost it, you would hardly blame your failure on the race course. You started even and ran together, and you lost because you couldn't run as fast as he or lacked the power of endurance. So your failure in the race of life is not due to the track, but to your lack of ability as a runner.

Japanese Jugglers. The most graceful and at the same time the most undoubtedly genuine performances seem to be those of the Japanese jugglers. Their paraphernalia is of the slightest, consisting chiefly of a top and some paper butterflies. An eyewitness thus describes them: "He took an ordinary boy's top and spun it in the air, then threw the end of the string back toward it with such accuracy that it was caught up and wound itself in a ready for the second cast. By the time it had done this it had reached his hand and was ready for another spin." The paper butterflies he made by help of a fan to alight wherever he wished. The spectator requested that one might be made to settle on each ear of the juggler. "Gentle undulations of the fan waved them slowly to the required point and there left them comfortably settled."—London News.

With Respect to Fish Stories. Harry—Fish diet is said to be good for the brain. Harriet—That may be so, but going to catch fish seems to be awful hard on the morals.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Curious Little Instruments That Are Used in Sahara Desert. A man's wealth in the Sahara is calculated almost entirely by the number of camels or palm trees which he owns and by the amount of water to which he is entitled. Water in the desert is so scarce that the ownership of it is most jealously guarded. In "A Search For the Masked Tawares" the author says that in buying a palm grove it is always necessary to stipulate for so many sa's per day or week. A sa's, literally "an hour," is the amount of water which will flow in an hour through an opening the width of a man's fist in the side of a segia.

The main segias, or channels, as a rule, follow the roads of the oasis, forming a sort of ditch at the side. A regular time table is kept, showing the hours at which the owners of the different plantations are entitled to draw water.

The time is measured by a very curious little water clock, consisting of a metal cup, made usually of brass or copper, with a small hole pierced in the bottom. At the commencement of each hour this is placed in a basin of water. The water gradually runs through the hole until at the expiration of the hour the cup sinks to the bottom of the basin. It is then taken out, emptied and set again to measure off the next sa's, and so the process is continued throughout the twenty-four hours.

This instrument is usually kept in the village mosque. In order to prevent all interference with it a watchman is set over it, who notices the expiration of each hour from the minaret of the mosque.

At the end of the sa's the opening in the side of the segia through which the water flows is closed with clay, and the water is cut off and allowed to flow down the main channel to the next plantation.

Explaining It. "His great contention is that all men are born equal." "That's all right." "But he seems to think he's better than most men." "Well, he means all men are born equal, but some are equal to a hundred others."—Philadelphia Press.

BONE FOOD

Soft and crooked bones mean bad feeding. Call the disease rickets if you want to. The growing child must eat the right food for growth. Bones must have bone food, blood must have blood food and so on through the list.

Scott's Emulsion is the right treatment for soft bones in children. Little doses every day give the stiffness and shape that healthy bones should have.

Bow legs become straighter, loose joints grow stronger and firmness comes to the soft heads.

Wrong food caused the trouble. Right food will cure it. In thousands of cases Scott's Emulsion has proven to be the right food for soft bones in childhood.

Send for free sample. SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, 409-415 Pearl Street, New York. Soc. and \$1.00; all druggists.

UNION HOUSE Jackson, Amador Co.

Meals to Order at all Hours

—REGULAR MEALS 25 CTS.—

Board and Lodging by the Day, Week or Month.

Frank Simcich - - - Prop



The American Girl. WHAT MAKES HER POPULAR. The American girl is admired and liked at home and abroad because she is the happiest and the healthiest of all the girls of the world. She is fond of life and is alive to everything beautiful and good in existence. Mrs. Langtry was asked that the American woman has little to learn from her English sisters.

Dr. Pierce, the specialist in women's diseases, of Buffalo, N. Y., advises simple exercises for women, preferably in the outdoor air. But many women are confined to the house and their household duties or their business confines them to poorly ventilated rooms.

If a woman suffers from a headache, or backache, a sensation of irritability or twitching and uncontrollable nervousness, something must be wrong with the head or back, she naturally says, but all the time the real trouble very often centers in the womanly organs. In 98 per cent. of cases the seat of the trouble is here, and a woman should take rational treatment for its cure. The local disorder and inflammation of the delicate special organs of the sex should be treated steadily and systematically.

Backed up by over a third of a century of remarkable and uniform cures, a record such as no other remedy for the diseases and weaknesses peculiar to women ever attained, the proprietors and makers of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription now feel fully warranted in offering to pay \$500 for any case of Leucorrhoea, Female Weakness, Protrusion, or Falling of Womb which they cannot cure. All they ask is a fair and reasonable trial of their means of cure.

of merit appeal to you? **No Cure, No Pay.** 50c.
bottle is a Ten Cent package of Grove's Black Root Liver Pills.